

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, comprising:
 - (a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and
 - (b) a sensor ~~proximate to~~ associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, comprising:
 - (a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and
 - (b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle,wherein the sensor comprises a pressure switch within the receptacle.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, comprising:
 - (a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and
 - (b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle,wherein the sensor comprises an optical sensor within the receptacle.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the signal detector is for detecting a telephone dial tone.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein, in response to a signal from the sensor indicating that the connector is present within the receptacle, a determination is made, with the signal detector, whether signals are being communicated through the transmission line.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~transmission line connection~~ apparatus of claim 4, wherein, in response to a failure by the signal detector to detect signals through the transmission line, a determination is made, with the sensor, whether the connector is present within the receptacle.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensor is utilized to determine whether the connector is present within the receptacle when the device is activated.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~transmission line connection~~ apparatus of claim 4, wherein the signal detector is utilized to detect signals through the transmission line at times other than on device activation.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing machine capable of communicating through a transmission line that terminates with a connector, comprising:

- (a) a receptacle for receiving the connector;
- (b) a sensor ~~proximate to~~ associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle; and
- (c) a sensor circuit, communicating with the detecting sensor, for transmitting a signal indicating whether the detecting sensor detects the presence of the connector.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating through a transmission line that terminates with a connector, adapted to be received in a receptacle, comprising:

(a) determining, with a sensor ~~proximate to~~ associated with the receptacle, whether the connector is present within the receptacle; and

(b) determining whether a signal is being communicated through ~~he~~ the transmission line.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of determining whether the connector is present within the receptacle occurs before the step of determining whether a signal is being communicated through the transmission line.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of initiating activation of a device prior to the step of determining whether the connection is present within the receptacle.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising, in response to determining that the connector is not present within the receptacle, requiring ~~the~~ an operator to intervene in order for further operations to occur.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising, in response to determining that a signal is not being communicated through the transmission line, placing a device in a condition that is ready to perform further operations.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of determining whether a signal is being communicated through the transmission line occurs before determining whether the connector is present within the receptacle.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein, in response to determining that a signal is not being communicated through the transmission line, determining whether the connector is present within the receptacle.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of initiating the step of determining whether a signal is being communicated through the transmission line at times other than activation of a device.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~method of claim 16, further comprising, in response to determining that the connector is present within the receptacle, delaying processing of the operation currently being performed by the device when the current operation requires use of the transmission line.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising, in response to determining that the ~~plug~~ connector is not present within the receptacle, aborting processing of the operation currently being performed by the device when such operation requires use of the transmission line.